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Claims:

In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format, a complete listing of claims is provided herein.

1. (Original) A method of providing an entitled price in an electronic transaction, comprising:

electronically sending by a requestor a request for an entitled price from a public electronic environment;

automatically routing the request to a private electronic environment;

obtaining the entitled price within the private electronic environment while the requestor waits; and

automatically returning the entitled price from the private electronic environment to the public electronic environment for providing to the requestor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a front end application, wherein the private electronic environment comprises a back end Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application, wherein the electronically sending comprises electronically sending by the requestor the request via the front end application, wherein the automatically routing comprises automatically routing the request to the ERP application, wherein the obtaining comprises obtaining the entitled price from the ERP application while the requestor waits, and wherein the automatically returning comprises automatically returning the entitled price from the ERP application to the front end application for providing to the requestor.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the automatically routing and the automatically returning are accomplished at least in part by messaging middleware.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MQSERIES and the ERP application comprises SAP.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MQSERIES.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MSMQ.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the ERP application comprises SAP.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the ERP application comprises BAAN.

9. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a global computer network, and wherein the front end application comprises a browser.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the electronic transaction takes place at least partially over the global computer network, wherein the electronically sending comprises electronically sending the request from the browser to a global computer network site server, and wherein the automatically routing comprises:

forwarding the request from the global computer network site server to messaging middleware;

sending the request from the messaging middleware to the ERP application; and

causing by the messaging middleware a command to be issued to the ERP application.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the automatically returning comprises:

sending the entitled price from the ERP application to the messaging middleware;

forwarding the entitled price from the messaging middleware to the global computer network site server; and

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returning the entitled price from the global computer network site server to the browser.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising encrypting and decrypting communications between the browser and the global computer network site server, and between the global computer network site server and the messaging middleware.

13. (Original) A system for providing an entitled price in an electronic transaction, comprising:

means for electronically sending by a requestor a request for an entitled price from a public electronic environment;

means for automatically routing the request to a private electronic environment;

means for obtaining the entitled price within the private electronic environment while the requestor waits; and

means for automatically returning the entitled price from the private electronic environment to the public electronic environment for providing to the requestor.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a front end application, wherein the private electronic environment comprises a back end Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application, wherein the means for electronically sending comprises means for electronically sending by the requestor the request via the front end application, wherein the means for automatically routing comprises means for automatically routing the request to the ERP application, wherein the means for obtaining comprises means for obtaining the entitled price from the ERP application while the requestor waits, and wherein the means for automatically returning comprises means for automatically returning the entitled price from the ERP application to the front end application for providing to the requestor.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for automatically routing and the means for automatically returning comprise messaging middleware.

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16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MQSERIES and the ERP application comprises SAP.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MQSERIES.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MSMQ.

19. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the ERP application comprises SAP.

20. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the ERP application comprises BAAN.

21. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a global computer network, and wherein the front end application comprises a browser.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the electronic transaction takes place at least partially over the global computer network, wherein the means for electronically sending comprises means for electronically sending the request from the browser to a global computer network site server, and wherein the means for automatically routing comprises:

means for forwarding the request from the global computer network site server to messaging middleware;

means for sending the request from the messaging middleware to the ERP application; and

means for causing by the messaging middleware a command to be issued to the ERP application.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the means for automatically returning comprises:

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means for sending the entitled price from the ERP application to the messaging middleware;

means for forwarding the entitled price from the messaging middleware to the global computer network site server; and

means for returning the entitled price from the global computer network site server to the browser.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising:

means for encrypting and decrypting communications between the browser and the global computer network site server; and

means for encrypting and decrypting communications between the global computer network site server and the messaging middleware.

25. (Original) At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of providing an entitled price in an electronic transaction, comprising:

electronically sending by a requestor a request for an entitled price from a public electronic environment;

automatically routing the request to a private electronic environment;

obtaining the entitled price within the private electronic environment while the requestor waits; and

automatically returning the entitled price from the private electronic environment to the public electronic environment for providing to the requestor.

26. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 25, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a front end application, wherein the private electronic environment comprises a back end Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application, wherein the electronically sending comprises electronically sending by the requestor the request via the front

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end application, wherein the automatically routing comprises automatically routing the request to the ERP application, wherein the obtaining comprises obtaining the entitled price from the ERP application while the requestor waits, and wherein the automatically returning comprises automatically returning the entitled price from the ERP application to the front end application for providing to the requestor.

27. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 25, wherein the automatically routing and the automatically returning are accomplished at least in part by messaging middleware.

28. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 27, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MQSERIES and the ERP application comprises SAP.

29. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 27, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MQSERIES.

30. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 27, wherein the messaging middleware comprises MSMQ.

31. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 25, wherein the ERP application comprises SAP.

32. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 25, wherein the ERP application comprises BAAN.

33. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 25, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a global computer network, and wherein the front end application comprises a browser.

34. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 33, wherein the electronic transaction takes place at least partially over the global computer network, wherein the electronically sending comprises electronically sending the request from the browser to a global computer network site server, and wherein the automatically routing comprises:

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forwarding the request from the global computer network site server to messaging middleware;

sending the request from the messaging middleware to the ERP application; and

causing by the messaging middleware a command to be issued to the ERP application.

35. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 34, wherein the automatically returning comprises:

sending the entitled price from the ERP application to the messaging middleware;

forwarding the entitled price from the messaging middleware to the global computer network site server; and

returning the entitled price from the global computer network site server to the browser.

36. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 35, further comprising encrypting and decrypting communications between the browser and the global computer network site server, and between the global computer network site server and the messaging middleware.